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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1943



R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1943

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices,
Plympton.

Manor House,
Kingsbridge.

Clerk to M.O.H. Miss Prowse. Clerk to M.O.H. Miss Hendrickson

Telephone: Plympton 2244

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTORS

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

1100 EAST 58TH STREET

CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

TO THE DEAN

FROM THE DEAN

RE: [illegible]

[illegible]

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year, 1943.

Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.C.H.,

B.A.O.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector: MR. N. C. HARRIS, A.I.A.S.,

C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector: MR. A. E. SMITH, Inspector of Meat and
Foods.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the Year, 1943.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 70,818 acres.

Population - 11,290

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1943, according to the
Rate Book. - 3,880.

Number of Unoccupied Houses - 37.

Rateable Value - £55,555.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £244.9.2d.

The area is mainly an agricultural one, although on the coast-
line many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits.

There is an annual influx of visitors during the holiday season
over the whole of the district, to which they are attracted by the
favourable climate and the beauty of the surroundings.

The conditions of employment and environs are conducive to health
and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.				
Legitimate:	Male	89	Female	87
			Total	176
Illegitimate:	Male	6	Female	9
			Total	15
		95		96
				191

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: - 16.91

STILL BIRTHS - Male - 3, Female - 4. Total - 7.

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births: - 35.35

DEATHS - 161

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :-
14.26.

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis - Nil.
Deaths from other maternal causes - Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

- (a) All infants per 1,000 live births: - 26.17
- (b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: - 28.40
- (c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: - Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) : - 27.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : - 1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) : - Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) : - 1.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	10	9	-
Diphtheria	9	9	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Measles	211	8	-

<u>AGE ANALYSIS</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>AGE ANALYSIS</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>
Under 5 years	2	Under 5 years	1
" 10 "	2	" 10 "	4
" 15 "	1	" 15 "	-
" 20 "	2	" 20 "	-
" 25 "	1	" 25 "	-
" 30 "	2	" 30 "	2
		" 35 "	2

10 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, 5 being under the Government Evacuation Scheme and 1 an R.A.F. patient.

All the cases of Diphtheria were admitted to Hospital. One to Swilly Isolation Hospital and the remainder to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

211 cases of Measles were notified, 8 were admitted to Hospital. 5 of these were dealt with under the Government Evacuation Scheme

1 R.A.F. case of chicken pox was admitted to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

1 case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever was admitted to the Swilly Isolation Hospital, but the diagnosis was changed to Chronic Nephritis.

20 cases of mumps were admitted to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital. 19 were dealt with under the Government Evacuation Scheme and one was an R.A.F. patient.

AMBULANCES For infectious cases an ambulance is now available and is situated at Modbury.

For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-35 years	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1
45-55 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	8	5	1	3	1	2	-	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. 181 children were fully protected during the year and 20 children received one injection only.

With the movement of child population there is difficulty in accurately estimating the percentage of children protected, but it is estimated that 57% of the children under five years and 96% of the children of school age have now been protected.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District Council and Kingsbridge Urban District Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional)

Two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations. Seale Hayne College also examines milk samples in cases of suspected mastitis. Urgent bacteriological specimens may be sent to the laboratory at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth.

PROVISION OF ANTI-TOXIN. Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of anti-toxin. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

LIST OF PUBLIC VACCINATORS. KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

<u>Name of Parishes</u>	<u>Name of Public Vaccinators</u>
Charleton, Aveton Gifford, Modbury, Bigbury, Kingston and Ringmore.	Dr. W. H. Cowper, Kingsbridge.
Blackawton and Stokefleming	Dr. J. G. Warren, Vicarage Hill, Dartmouth.
Churchstow, South Milton, Thurlestone, W. Alvington, Buckland-tout-Saints, East Allington, Loddiswell and Woodleigh.	Dr. W. G. Verniquet, Barnfield, Kingsbridge.

List of Public Vaccinators - Kingsbridge Rural District
Continued:-

<u>Name of Parishes.</u>	<u>Name of Public Vaccinator</u>
Chivelstone, Sherford, Slapton, South Pool and Stokenham.	Dr. W.H. Simonds, Chillington, Kingsbridge.
E. Portlemouth, Malborough, and South Huish.	Dr. D.O. Twining, Salcombe.

Vaccination Officer: Mr. H.S. Smith.

NURSING IN THE HOME None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employs Health Visitor in the district. There are seven District Nurses whose services are of greatest value in the Rural District.

MIDWIVES. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. There are five practising midwives in the district.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. There is a centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-Patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides beds for 16 patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts:-

Men's Ward	6 beds
Women's Ward	6 beds
Children's Cots	2
Private Wards	2 (one bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. There is an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at Modbury, and by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, some infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

SCHOOLS There are 19 Elementary Schools in the District. Inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and in cases requiring further attention by the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 93 notices were received referring to 416 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	5
Chicken Pox	63
Diphtheria	4
Measles	223
German Measles	1
Whooping Cough	15
Mumps	52
Ringworm	1
Impetigo	11
Scabies	22
Influenza	11
Jaundice	8

WATER Certain portions of the district are supplied from the mains of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board namely:- Aveton Gifford, Buckland-tot-Saints, East Prawle, Lcddiswell, Modbury, Sherford, South Milton, part of Thurlestone and West Alvington.

This provides a pure and satisfactory supply to the Parishes named. Approximately 560 have a piped water supply on to the house, and 240 houses draw their water from standpipes.

The remainder of the district rely on local springs and wells viz:- Bigbury, Blackawton, Charleton, East and West, Churchstow, East Allington, East Portlemouth, Kingston, Malborough, Ringmore, Slapton, Stokenham, Hope, South Pool, Stokefleming, Strete and Woodleigh. In most cases these supplies are unsatisfactory as to quantity, especially during a dry period. Large distribution extensions from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board mains were contemplated before the war and have been given a high priority for post-war work to be undertaken by the Council. When these extensions are complete, most of the district will be well supplied with water.

Approximately 600 have a piped water supply to the house, and 400 houses take their water from standpipes.

Although materials and labour are at a premium through war conditions, a number of the inhabitants are taking water into their houses. During this year twenty-three houses were supplied direct from the mains.

AVETON GIFFORD WATER SUPPLY. This village is now supplied direct from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board mains by means of a reducing valve and the old supply is cut off.

EAST PRAWLE WATER SUPPLY. As a temporary measure further extensions from the Council's mains by means of $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized piping has been made, and the whole of the village now has a satisfactory and pure water supply. The two wells which formally supplied this village have been closed.

BEE SANDS - COUNCIL HOUSES - SEWERAGE. A nuisance having arisen through the existing soakaway pit not functioning, a new pit has been built and is working satisfactorily.

PETROL LICENCES 14 licences were issued or renewed during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. One Offensive Trade, that of a Fellmonger, is carried on in the district. It has been regularly inspected and has given no cause for complaint.

NUISANCES. 23 complaints were received and these were dealt with and remedied without the necessity of serving notices.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There are 680 dairies and cowsheds in the area, 161 of which were inspected during the year.

129 samples of milk were taken by this Council, 98 of which were from accredited producers and of these 50 passed and 48 failed.

The number of accredited milk producers on the list is 45.

BAKEHOUSES. 16 Bakehouses are on the register and they are all in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. There are in the district 21 slaughterhouses. These slaughterhouses are not used for slaughtering except for casualties, as the whole of the meat supplied to the district is dressed outside the area. 3 slaughterhouses were inspected during the year where casualties were slaughtered.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.C.SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.